December 29, 2005

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: NSTAR Electric, D.T.E. 05-84: Reply Comments

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

Associated Industries of Massachusetts (A.I.M.) files these reply comments in response to NSTAR Electric's November 19, 2005 request for approval of revised Terms and Conditions and the initial comments filed in this proceeding on December 19, 2005. NSTAR Electric is proposing to limit the opportunity of retail competitive suppliers to switch customers on and off Basic Service multiple times in short periods as a means of reducing significant Basic Service load volatility and resulting energy costs to Basic Service customers.

A.I.M. is the largest employers association in Massachusetts with over 7600 members statewide. Our members include small, medium and large businesses – manufacturing, commercial and service – that all stand to be affected by the outcome of this proceeding.

The company's proposal is focused on the activities of a few retail competitive suppliers that have attempted to use Basic Service as an option for their customers, rather than as a supply of last resort as it was envisioned. Although this practice is not prohibited by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the "Department") or statute, A.I.M. believes it has contributed to an increase in Basic Service prices for both large commercial and industrial customers that are not the beneficiaries of multiple switching or that continue to take Basis Service, as well as customers in general to the extent that it leads to incrementally higher Basic Service costs that must be paid by all Basic Service customers including commercial and industrial customers.

A.I.M. supports NSTAR Electric's proposed revised Terms and Conditions. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Robert Ruddock
General Counsel
Associated Industries of Massachusetts